

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 and 14-21 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 12, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided at page 9 and Figure 12 of the Specification as originally filed.

REJECTIONS

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected as allegedly anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 2000-196720 ("the '720 patent"). Claims 12, 14-16, and 20 were rejected as allegedly anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 2001-169166 ("the '166 patent"). Claim 2 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable over the '720 patent in view of Admitted Prior Art. Claims 3-5 were rejected as allegedly unpatentable over the '720 patent in view Japanese patent 10-312334. Claims 6-7 were rejected as allegedly unpatentable over the '720 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,850,784 to SanGiovanni. Claim 9 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable over the '720 patent in view of JP2000-69158. Claim 10 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable over the '720 patent in view of JP2002-9907. Claim 17 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable over the '166 patent in view of JP2002-9907. Claim 18 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable over the '166 patent in view of JP10-312334. Claim 19 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable over the '166 patent in view of JP2000-691158. Claim 21 was rejected as allegedly unpatentable over the '166 patent in view of US 6,701,162 to Everett.

RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

The present claimed invention has the advantage that when the display portion 40 is rotated by approximately 180 degrees around the second axis R_2 , it is possible for a user to change or select information displayed on the display panel while seeing the display panel from the same direction.

Independent claim 1, recites *inter alia*:

“...wherein the main body has a depression formed therein, the depression adapted to support at least one button such that the at least one button does not protrude from the main body and such that the at least one button is covered by the cover when the cover is in a closed position and such that the at least one button is used to change or select information displayed on the display panel.”
(emphasis added)

Applicants submit that the prior art relied upon does not teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 recites that the body has a depression that supports at least one button, such as the menu button and enter button, and these buttons are covered when the cover member is in a closed position.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 12 recites similar, or somewhat similar, features and is patentable for similar reasons.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

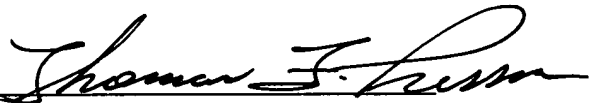
In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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